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ROMANIAN NEWS AGENCY

DOCUMENTS ARTICLES AND INFORMATION ON
ROMANIA

May 4, 1970
No. 12

DECLARATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA ON THE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA

ROMANIAN PRESS COMMENTARIES ON THE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA

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DECLARATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF ROMANIA ON THE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania has with deep anxiety taken cognizance of the appearance of new elements of tension in South-East Asia. The war in Vietnam, waged against the Vietnamese people, has not come to an end yet. A reactionary coup d'état was effected in Cambodia. Saigonese troops, supported by U.S. air force, have penetrated into that country. The civil population is subjected to terror and massacres. American military actions against the patriotic forces are intensifying in Laos.

All this generates new threats both to the situation in South-East Asia and to world peace, causes prejudice to the peoples in that part of the world in their fight for the defence of freedom and independence, for independent economic and social development.

The Socialist Republic of Romania sympathetically follows and firmly speaks up in support of the peoples' struggle for liberation from imperialist domination, for winning and defending their national independence, for the assertion and promotion of their inalienable and imprescriptible right to decide their own fate.

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania has learned with satisfaction about the top-level conference of the peoples of Indochina, that was attended by the delegation of the Cambodian people, led by Norodom Sihanouk, head of the Cambodian state, chairman of the National Unity Front; the delegation of the Laotian people, led by Prince Souphanouvong, Chairman of the Patriotic Front of Laos; the delegation of the people of the Republic of South Vietnam, led by Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the CC of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam, Chairman of the Consultative Council of the Republic of South Vietnam; and the delegation of the people of the

Vietnam Democratic Republic, led by Phan van Dong, head of the Government of the Vietnam Democratic Republic.

The Romanian Government expresses its solidarity with the righteous cause of those peoples, for the defence of their liberty, independence and of the right to decide their own fate and supports the aims of their noble fight, in keeping with the fundamental principles of the Geneva agreements. The Romanian Government welcomes the agreement reached in connection with the determination of the respective peoples to cooperate on the basis of mutual respect, in defence of the liberty and independence of each country, in the fight against imperialist aggression.

Expressing their anxiety over the danger spelt by the expansion of the military conflicts in Indochina, the Romanian Government and people declare once more that an end must be put to the U.S. aggression in Vietnam, that the U.S. troops and those of its allies be withdrawn from South Vietnam and consider it necessary that an end be put to the aggressive actions against the peoples in that region of the world.

The interests of peace imperiously call for the observance of the peoples' sacred right to liberty and independence and impose that the Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian peoples be allowed to freely decide, without any outside interference, on their road of development, to build their future in keeping with their interests and aspirations.

The Romanian Government and people reaffirm their complete solidarity with and full support of the righteous fight waged by the peoples of Indochina for liberty, independence and the defence of their national being, for the cause of progress and peace in the world.

STRENGTHENED FIGHTING FRONT OF THE INDOCHINESE PEOPLES FOR NATIONAL LIBERTY AND INDEPENDENCE

Under the headline "Strengthened fighting front of the Indochinese peoples for national liberty and independence", the foreign policy commentator of newspaper Scînteia Romulus Căplescu, refers in the daily's May Day issue to the Declaration of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania on the situation in Indochina, which expresses the deep anxiety of the Romanian people at the appearance of fresh elements of tension in the South-East Asia region as well as its solidarity with the just struggle of the peoples in Indochina.

After writing that for years on end, Cambodia stood out in international life by a policy of peace and neutrality, of consistent defence of national independence and sovereignty, the newspaper states: Recently, concomitantly with the coup d'état in Phnom Penh, the destiny of that country has taken a negative turn, aggravating the political situation in Indochina. On this line, Scînteia points to the actions undertaken by the Lon Nol-Sirk Matak government for stifling the democratic forces, as also the repressions unleashed against the population of Vietnamese origin in that country; the intervention of some foreign armies with the purpose of hindering the Khmer people's fight for liberty and national independence including the action of the Saigon regime of delivering arms to the authors of the coup d'état in Cambodia, the more and more evident presence in that country, under different forms, of American military as well as in the last few days the penetration into the territory of Cambodia of numerous Saigonese troops, supported by the US air force.

The intervention of American military forces is extending also to the other countries of Indochina - the newspaper notes. Intensified are the operation of the special American military forces in Laos, the air raids of the US

air force on the liberated zones of that country. In spite of the more and more vigorous demands of public opinion, the American aggression against the Vietnamese people continues.

In connection with the joint declaration endorsed by the top level conference of the Indochinese peoples, newspaper Scînteia writes that this powerfully reflects the solidarity of the peoples of Indochina in the struggle against imperialist intervention, for the defence of the right to decide their own destinies.

Public opinion in Romania - newspaper Scînteia stresses - assesses the top level meeting of the representatives of the three peoples of Indochina as a particularly significant political event in international life and especially in the life of that geographical area of Asia. The Romanian Government and people reassert their entire solidarity and full support for the just struggle of the peoples of Indochina for liberty, independence and defence of their national identity, for the cause of progress and peace in the world.

The struggle for liberty and independence of the peoples of Indochina is part and parcel of the general course of contemporary historical development. The heroic resistance of the Vietnamese people against US aggression, the fight of the patriotic forces in the other parts of the peninsula most firmly demonstrate that in our days any attempt, inclusive of armed attempts, to impose foreign domination on other peoples is doomed to failure, that a people which is determined to defend at any cost its liberty, dignity and national identity cannot be brought to its knees, no matter how big the forces of the imperialist aggressor might be. The inexorable realities show that the sole solution imposed for safeguarding peace in that part is the exact observance of the 1954 Geneva agreements, the withdrawal of all the American interventionist troops and those of their allies

from the countries of the Indochina peninsula, the cessation of every aggressive action and of every interference in the internal affairs of the peoples in that region, the recognition of their sacred right to regulate their own problems, as they consider just. This is the road towards extinguishing the hotbed of tension in that region of Asia, in keeping with the interests of the peoples of Indochina, with the interests of peace and security in the whole world - Romulus Căplescu writes in conclusion.

PUBLIC OPINION DISAPPROVES OF THE ESCALATION OF THE U.S. MILITARY INTERVENTION IN INDOCHINA

In Romania, just as all over the world, disapproval and protest was called forth by the U.S. Government's decision - as announced by President Nixon on Thursday evening - to dispatch American troops from South Vietnam, which together with the Saigon troops should undertake military operations on Cambodia's territory - wrote Ion Fîntînaru, the foreign policy commentator of "Scînteia" in the daily's issue of May 3.

The American-Saigon military intervention in Cambodia signifies an escalation of the American aggression in Indochina, an extension of the war waged for so many years against the peoples of Vietnam and of Laos to another peaceful and freedom-loving people on that peninsula, to a country which has promoted a policy of neutrality and independence. By this, the United States seriously violates the elementary rules of international law, and contributes to aggravating the situation in Indochina and throughout South-East Asia.

That is why the military intervention in Cambodia has aroused a profoundly negative reaction in countries on all continents, as well as in the U.S.A.

Public opinion in Romania, the entire Romanian people, which firmly speaks up in support of the peoples' fight for national independence - "Scînteia" writes - resolutely disapproves of the new aggressive action of the U.S.A. which flagrantly contravene the aspirations for liberty of the peoples of Indochina, their aspiration for doing away with the survivals of colonial and imperialist rule, for building their future according to their own will, without any outside interference. These actions also directly contravene the major demands of the contemporary world of promotion of detente and the ensuring of international peace and security. As shown in the April 30 Declaration of the Romanian Government, "The interests of peace imperiously demand the obser-

vance of the peoples' sacred right to liberty and independence and impose that the Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian peoples be allowed to freely decide on their road of development, without any outside interference, to build their future in keeping with their interests and aspirations". Inspired by feelings of profound solidarity with the Vietnamese people, with the fighting peoples of Indochina, assuring them of its full support in their rigtheous fight, the Romanian people resolutely demands the re-establishment of peace in that region on the basis of the sole reasonable path, namely the undelayed withdrawal of the American troops and of their allies from that area, the cessation of all aggressive actions, the steadfast observance of the nations' right to live in freedom and peace.

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